

CALA ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alana Hernandez
Executive Director & Curator
alana@calaalliance.org
(602) 612-3074
www.calaalliance.org



Maria Camila Englert, CALA Alliance Board Chair. Photograph courtesy of Maria Camila Englert and CALA Alliance.

CALA Alliance Announces Newly Appointed Board Chair, Maria Camila Englert

Phoenix, Arizona // May 10, 2023—CALA Alliance (Celebración Artística de las Américas) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Maria Camila Englert** as Chair of CALA Alliance’s Board of Directors. Englert succeeds **Ruben E. Alvarez**, who recently stepped down from his leadership position after serving as CALA Alliance’s Chair for thirteen years. Alvarez’s leadership as Chair was integral to the development of CALA Alliance since its inception in 2010.

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His vision in championing Latinx art and culture has allowed the organization to grow its artistic and intellectual reach, cultivating new audiences and alliances to connect communities in Phoenix to cultural production happening around the country. Alvarez will remain active as a member of CALA Alliance's Board of Directors.

"I know I speak for the entire Board and our CALA Alliance community when I say we are immensely grateful for Ruben's wise leadership over the past thirteen years. I cannot overstate his impact on the success of our organization as we have grown over the past several years. His partnership, guidance, and support have been invaluable to me since I joined CALA Alliance in early 2021," remarks **Alana Hernandez**, CALA Alliance Executive Director & Curator. "I am thrilled to have Maria step into this new role as Board Chair. Her dedication to the organization has been felt tremendously since she's been with us. I am excited to work closely with her on all aspects of CALA Alliance's growth and know her energy, experience, and ideas will help us strengthen our organization and the Board for years to come."

CALA Alliance was established with a mission to celebrate the richness and depth of Latinx artistic talent in Arizona and to strengthen connections to Latin America through arts and culture. Between 2010–2014, CALA Alliance presented the *CALA International Festival*, which brought together Phoenix arts organizations to showcase Latinx and Latin American dance, music, theater, film, poetry, and visual art. In 2016, CALA Alliance transitioned from presenting the festival to collaborating with artists and arts organizations year-round, telling new stories about our transborder cultural connections and moving our cultural imagination forward in Arizona.

The transition of leadership comes at an exciting time of growth for CALA Alliance. As the organization evolves and expands its reach in bolstering Latinx art in Arizona and beyond, CALA Alliance is eager for what will come with Englert in her new position. This transition marks a historic event in CALA Alliance's history, as Englert now serves as the second Board Chair.

"I am honored to have been entrusted by my outstanding and dedicated Board colleagues to lead the CALA Alliance Board as Chair," said **Maria Camila Englert**. "Thank you to Ruben E. Alvarez (Past-Chair) and the founding Board for the vision, dedication, and passion that has grown CALA Alliance into who we are today. Serving the CALA Alliance mission brings me great joy as I am excited to push our work forward by elevating, promoting, and increasing the visibility of Latinx art and artists in our local community and across the nation."

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CALA Alliance has also recently welcomed Adam Lopez Falk to the Board of Directors this past month. He joins several new members to the organization including Carmen Armstrong, Vanessa Ruiz, Alexander Soto, and Veronica Williams who all joined the CALA Alliance Board of Directors this past year.

About Maria Camila Englert

Maria Camila Englert is Vice President at Western Alliance Bank. She has over sixteen years of banking and finance experience in the Phoenix-Metro Area. She enjoys working with business leaders to understand their business drivers, objectives, and challenges that enable her to provide high level of service and strategic solutions to support their growth. Englert received her Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Spanish Literature from the University of Arizona. Englert also served on Scottsdale Cultural Council’s emerging professional board, Teach for America’s Phoenix Associate Board, and as Past Chair of the Rotary International-Phoenix El Puente Rotary Club.

About CALA Alliance

CALA Alliance (Celebración Artística de las Américas) is a Latinx arts organization based in Phoenix. We collaborate with artists and arts organizations to nurture artistic talent, focusing on artists from the Latin American diaspora. CALA Alliance advances its mission through innovative artist residencies, artist commissions, community workshops, and public programming that position the Metro Phoenix region as a fruitful site that acknowledges and contributes to the promotion of Latinx art throughout the United States.

CALA Alliance envisions a cultural landscape that values the creative and artistic contributions of Latinxs in the United States, understanding that these histories are integral to the cultural fabric of this country. We are dedicated to inspiring and educating Arizonans about the richness of artistic talent in our local community and across the nation.

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